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di·lat·er (dǐ-lā'tər, dī'lā'tər, dī-lā'tər) n. var. of DILATOR.

di-la-tive (dī-lā'tīv) n. 1. Causing or producing dilation. 2. Tending

dil·a·tom·e·ter (dil'a·tom'i-tər, dī'lə-) n. [DILATE + -METER.] An instrument for measuring thermal expansion in solids, liquids, and gases. —dil'a-tomet'ric (-ta-met'rik) adj. —dil'a-tom'e-try n. di-la-tor also di-later (di-la'tor, di'la'tor, di-la'tor) or dil-a-ta-

tor (dil'a-ta'tar, dī'la-) n. Something that dilates an object or organ, esp. a muscle, surgical instrument, or drug that produces dilation.

dilatory (dilatoric, tore) adj. [ME dilatoric < Lat. dilatorius < dilator, delayer < dilatus, p.part. of differre, to delay. —see DIFFER.]

1. Tending or meant to delay. 2. Marked by procrastination < dilator. tory study habits > 3. Proceeding at an undesirably slow rate. -

a+o'ri+ly adv. —dil'a-to'ri-ness n.
di-lem·ma (di-lem'ə, di-) n. [Lat. < Gk. dilemma, ambiguous
proposition: di-, two + lemma, proposition.] 1. a. A situation that requires a choice between two evenly balanced alternatives. b. A predicament that apparently defies a satisfactory solution. usage: Traditionally dilemma has been applied to a situation in which there is a choice between evenly balanced alternatives, both of which are usu. unpleasant. The use of dilemma as a synonym for problem or predicament, although still unacceptable to some, is a practice curpredicament, aithough sun unacceptante to some, is a practice currently widespread in all contexts. 2. Logic. An argument in which a choice of two or more alternatives, each being conclusive and fatal, is presented to an antagonist. —dil'emmenatic (dil's-mat'ik) adj.

presented to an antagonist. —difem:mat'ie (dif')-mat'ik) adi.
difet-tante (dif')-tant', -tan'te, -tan'te, dif')-tant' n. pl.
-tantes 07 -tanti (-tan'te, -tan') [Ital, lover of the arts, pr.part. of dilettare, to delight < Lat. delectare. —see Delicht.] 1. One superficially interested in the arts or in a branch of knowledge: AMATEUR.

2. A lover of the fine arts: CONNOISEUR.—adj. Superficial or amateurish.—dil'et-tan'tish adj.—dil'et-tan'tism n. dil-gence! (dil'a-jans) n. [ME < OFr. < Lat. diligentia < pr. part. of diliger, to esteem.—see DILIGENT.] 1. Persistent application to diligence² (dil'a-jans, de'le-zhans') n. [Fr. < diligence, speed <

diligent, diligent.] A large public stagecoach.

diligent (dil-jant) adj. [ME < OFr. < Lat. diligens, pr.part. of diligere, to esteem, love: dis., apart + legere, to choose.] Marked by

persevering, painstaking effort: ASSIDUOUS. —dil'i-gent-ly adv. dill (dll) n. [ME dile < OE.] 1. An aromatic herb indigenous to the Old World, Anethum graveolens, bearing finely dissected leaves and small yellow flowers. 2. The leaves or seeds of the dill plant, used as

dill pickle n. A pickled cucumber flavored with dill.

dil·ly (dil'ē) n., pl. -lies. [Obs. dilly, delightful < DELIGHTFUL.] Slang. One that is remarkable or extraordinary <a dilly of a show> dilly bag n. [< dilli, native word in Australia.] A bag or basket woven of rushes or bark, used in Australia.

dil·ly-dal·ly (dil'ē-dāl'ē) vi. -lied, -ly-ing, -lies. [Redup. of DALLY.] 1. To waste time. 2. To vacillate. -dil'ly-dal'li-er n.

DALLY.] 1. 10 waste time. Z. 10 vaciliate. —dil'ly-dal'li-er n. dil-uent (dil'yōō-ənt) adi. [Lat. diluens, diluent, pr.part. of diluene, to dilute.] Capable of diluting. —n. A substance used to dilute. di-lute (di-lot', di-) vt. -lut-ed, -lut-ing, -lutes. [Lat. diluere, dilut-: dis., apart + lavere, to wash.] 1. To thin or reduce the conditions of the dilute of th centration of <a href="mailto: solution> 2. To reduce the potency, strength, purity, or brilliance of by or as if by admixture. —adj. Reduced in strength: DILUTED. —di-lut'er n.

* syns: DILUTE, CUT, THIN, WATER DOWN, WEAKEN V. core meaning: to lessen the strength of by or as if by admixture \(\dilute \)

meaning: to lessen the sureign of by or as it by adminator, whiskey with a splash of soda > < dilute a report with trivia > di-luttion (di-loo'shan, di-) n. 1. a. The process of diluting b. A dilute or weakened condition. 2. A diluted substance. di-lu-vi-an (-an) adj. [Llat. diluvi-an] (-an) adj. [Llat. diluvi-an]

lis < Lat. diluvium, flood < diluere, to dilute.] Of or produced by a

dim (dīm) adj. dim·mer, dim·mest. [ME < OE dimm.] 1. a. Lacking brightness. b. Shedding minimal light: FAINT. c. Negative or pessimistic < taking a dim view of the future > 2. Lacking brightness or luster: DULL 3. Lacking distinctness: OBSCURE 4. Lacking sharpness or clarity of understanding: STUPID. 5. Lacking keenness or vigor.

–v. dimmed, dim-ming, dims. –vr. 1. To make dim. 2. To put (headlights) on low beam.—vi. To become dim.—pl.n. dims. The parking lights on an automobile.—dim'ty adv.—dim'ness n. dime (dim) n. [ME, tenth part < OFr. < Lat. decima (pars), tenth

(part) < decem, ten.] A U.S. coin worth ten cents.

di-men-hy-dri-nate (di'mën-hi'dra-nāt') n. [DIME(THYL) + (AMI)N(E) + HYDR(O) + IN + ATE.] An anti C₂₄H₂₈ClN₅O₃, used to treat motion sickness and allergies.

dime novel n. A usu. paperbound melodramatic novel. -dime

di-men-sion (di-men'shan, di-) n. [ME dimensioun < OFr. dimension < Lat. dimensio, extent < dimensus, p.part. of dimetiri, to measure: dis- (intensive) + metiri, to measure.] 1. A measure of spatial extent, esp. width, height, or length. 2. often dimensions. Scope or extent, esp. width, neight, or length. 2. Often dimensions. Scope of magnitude: EXTENT. 3. Math. a. Any of the least number of independent coordinates required to specify a point in space uniquely. b. The range of any of these coordinates. 4. Physics. A physical proposed to the coordinate of the second transfer of the s erty, often mass, length, time, or a combination thereof, regarded as

/a fundamental measure or as one of a set of fundamental a physical quantity. —vt. -sioned, -sioning, siona To cut to specified dimensions. —di-men'sion-al adi al'i-ty (-sho-nàl'ī-tē) n. —di-men'sion-al-ly ady:

less adj.
di-mer (di'mər) n. 1. A molecule having two identical im ccules. 2. A chemical compound made up of dimers dimeric (dī-mēr'īk) adj. Biol. Made up of two divisions. dimerous (dim'ar-as) adj. 1. Having two parts or segmentarsus in certain insects. 2. Bot. Having flower parts as petal and stamens, in sets of two. —dim'erism n. dime store n. A five-and-ten.

dime store n. A nve-and-ten.
dime ter (dim'i-tər) n. [LLat. < Gk. dimetros, having two di., two + metron, meter.] A line of verse having two

or two dipodies.

di-meth-yl (di-meth'əl) n. Ethane.

di-meth-yl-sulf-ox-ide (di-meth'əl-sul-fok'sid') n.

hygroscopic liquid, (CH_a),\$O, obtained from lignin and und
hygroscopic liquid, (CH_a),\$O medications in a solvent and skin penetrant for conveying medications into di-min ish (di-min'ish) v. -ished, -ish-ing, -ish-ea (Minishen, blend of diminuen, to lessen (< OFr. diminuer, Lar nuere : de-, from + minuere, to lessen) and minishen to OFr. minutiare < Lat. minutiare < Lat. minutia, smallnes < tus, small, p.part. of minuere, to lessen).]—vt. 1.2 170 cause to seem smaller or less. b. To detract from the authority. or prestige of. 2. To cause to taper. 3. Mus. To reduce (a priminor interval) by a semitone. —vi. 1. To become smaller 2. To taper. -di-min'ish-a-ble adi. -di-min'ish-ment n diminishing returns pl.n. The rate at which profits dim in proportion to the amount of further investment after

di-min-u-en-do (di-min'yoō-ĕn'dō) n. & adi. & adv. [lial?d ishing < Lat. deminuendum, gerund of deminuere, to dim Mus. Decrescendo.

dim-i-nu-tion (dim'a-noo'shan, -nyoo'-) n. [ME dimi OFr. diminution < Lat. deminutio < deminuere, to dimin 1. a. The act or process of diminishing b. The resulting do 2. Mus. The repetition of a them in notes one-quarter or melong as the original. —dim'i-nu'tion-al adi.

dimin'u-tive (dimin'y-tiv) adi. [ME diminutif. Office of the diminutif.]

deminutivus < deminutus, p.part. of deminuere, to dim 1. Very small: TINY. 2. Designating certain suffixes that denote ness, youth, familiarity, or affection, as let in playlet of duckling. —n. A diminutive suffix, word, or name tive-ly adv. —di-min'u-tive-ness n.

tive-ly adv. —di-min'u-tive-ness n dim ity (dim ite n., pl. ties. [ME demyt < Med. Lat diminimed. Gk. dimitos, double-threaded: Gk. di., two + mitos, threads A thin, crisp, usu. corded or checked cotton fabric. dim mer (dim'er) n. 1. A device for reducing the inten electric light or lighting system. 2. dimmers. a. Automobile lights. b. Low-beam automobile headlights.

di-morph (di'môrf') n. [Back-formation < DIMORPHISM] Ein two dimorphic forms.

di-mor phic (di-môr fik) also di-mor phous (-fas) ad hi or occurring in two distinct forms.

di morphism (di môr fiz'əm) n. [< Gk. dimorphos, having forms : di-, two + morphē, shape.] 1. Bot. The occurrence of distinct forms of the same parts, as leaves, flowers, or stamens, single plant or in plants of the same kind. 2. Chem. & Physics morphic crystallization. 3. Zool. The state of having two distinctions forms in the same species when the sexes differ in secondary s as primary sexual characteristics.

di-mor-phous (di-môr'fas) adj. var. of DIMORPHIC. dim-out (dim'out') n. 1. The restricted use or exposure of line night, esp. for protection against air raids. 2. The semidarking duced by a dim-out.

dim ple (dim'pol) n. [ME dimpel.] 1. A small natural indeam in the flesh on a part of the human body <a dimple in one small natural indeam. 2. A slight surface depression.—v. -pled, -pling, -pled produce dimples in <The rain dimpled the lake. >—vidimples by smiling.—dim'ply adj.

dim sum (dim' soom', sum') pl.n. [Cantonese.] A variety nese delicacies, esp. small steamed or fried dumplings, serve light meat

dim wit (dim'wit') n. Slang. A stupid person. —dim wit's

-dim'wit'ted ly adv. -dim'wit'ted ness n.
din (din) n. [ME dine < OE dyne.] A mixture of loud, confus disagreeable noises. —v. dinned, dinning, dins. —v. 1. To with deafening noise. 2. To impress by wearying repetition din the lesson into our heads.

din the lesson into our heads > -vi. To make a din. dinar (dinar, de'nar) n. [Ar. dinar < 1.Gk. denarion < 1 ius, denarius.] 1.—See table at CURRENCY. 2. Any of several gold and silver currency used in the Mark 1. gold and silver currency used in the Middle East from the 8th me 19th cent.

āpat āpay ârcare āfather ēpet êhe hwwhich itie îr pier ŏ pot ō toe ô paw, for oi noise

tine (dn) vi & vi. dined, d (via diriginare Lat. di (via diriginare or give di diner (dfnst) n. 1. One th: dinet (drnar) n. 1. One the returnant with a long counte dinette (drnet) n. [< Dr mail 2. The table and chain ding (ding) v. dinged, ding (ding or clang 2 To speak per clang 2 To speak per clang to clang, as by striking ding cling) in ding ding-ling (ding-ling) in the clang ding-ling (ding-ling) in the clang ding-ling (ding-ling) in the clang dinger ling (dingel-ling) in the clang dinger ling (dinger) in the clang dinger ling (dinger ling) in the clang dinger ling dinger ling (dinger ling) in the clang dinger ling dinger ling (dinger ling) in the clang dinger ling d ding bat (ding bat) n. [Or. out or stone, suitable for his rimbol's informal: A ding a ding dong, doi donged, dong ing, dong hammering exchange, as of b din ghy (ding'e) n., pl. -ghi L'A small boat powered by sa or pleasure craft on a larger bo er life raft. din gle (dinggal) n. [ME, d

din go (ding go) n., pl. -goe doe Canis dingo of Australia din gus (ding'as) n. [Du.

thing | Slang. An object who din'sy (din'se) adj -gi-er, -gi imble and grime. 2. Squalid (adv _din'siness n.

dining car n. A railroad ca: dining room n. A room in dinitro ben zene (di-ni' isomeric compounds, C.H.(N dves, and celluloid

din key also din ky (ding'l Informal. A small locomotive din kum (din kam) [Orig. 1 ine adv. Truly: honestly. din ky (dingkê) [Prob. < Sc klest Small or insignifican din ner (din'ər) n. [ME dine meal of the day. 2. A formal

commemorating an occasion A TABLE D'HOTE 2. dinner jacket n. TUXEDO

dinner theater n. A rest after dinner.

dinnerware (din'arwar') bowls, and platters, used in se dinoflagel·late (di'nō-fl Magellata, class name: Ck. di flagellum, flagellum.] Any of tropans of the class Dinoflagel outer envelope and forming a dino-saur (di'no-sôr') n. [t lizard] Any of various extine Saurischia and Ornithischia, e no-san'ri-an (-sôr'ē-an) adj. a dinothere (di'nothir') n. | deinos, monstrous + Gk the ious extinct elephantlike man ing during the Miocene, Plioc dint (dint) n. [ME < OE dyn sheer perseverance > 2. A de L To put a dent in. 2. To driv dioc e-san (di-os'i-san) adj bishop of a diocese.

diocese (di'ə-sis, -sēs', -sēz') Clat dioecesis, jurisdiction kein to keep house, adminis habit , oikos, house] The

bishop: BISHOPRIC.

diode (di'od') n. 1. An electi chiefly to one direction. 2. A athode, and an anode. 3. A tv mainly as a rectifier.

dioe-cious also di-e-ciou dwelling < oikos, house.] Bot. on separate plants. —di-oe'ci-

6 boot ou out th thin 700 abuse zh vision